

## SEASONABLE BOOKS SEEN IN REVIEW AND COMMENT

CRITICAL REVIEWS  
OF LATE BOOKS

Mr. Chambers's Ingenious New  
Stories—Witty Tales by  
J. J. Bell.

## NOVELS FROM MANY PENS

Books on Babies, Flowers, Rail-  
ways, Gardens and  
Other Themes.

Wandering around the Bronx Park has disagreed with Robert W. Chambers and has given him a grievance to which he gives expression in "Police!!!" (Appleton). He doesn't like to see the animals and birds confined in cages and enclosures and bursts into verse to say how he commiserates with them and how he despises the people who look at them. He extends his disgust to the unlucky employees of the Natural History Museum and vents his bitter sarcasm on them in six short stories, which otherwise would be the airy, graceful, love trifles with which his readers are familiar. He is hampered too by a feeling of resentment against the prevalent woman suffrage agitation, which leads him to speak unkindly of the dominant sex, though he does not forget to give his heroine fair hair, violet eyes and more or less exposed gracile limbs. In this his illustration, Henry Hutt, abets him gratifyingly. The idea in all these stories is ingenious and amusing; we only regret that Mr. Chambers wastes so much time and space in being boyishly satirical over his pedantic and bumptious scientific expert when we would rather read about the charming mixtures who lead him on. The stories are entertaining, but should not be read consecutively. A little time spent by the author or his proofreaders in consulting the dictionary would have improved the spelling. Is it only to nature romances that Mr. Chambers's description applies? Where certain

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city into mending its ways,  
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her?

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new book lays bare the  
secret heart of the great  
nation. He has traveled up  
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knows the real source of  
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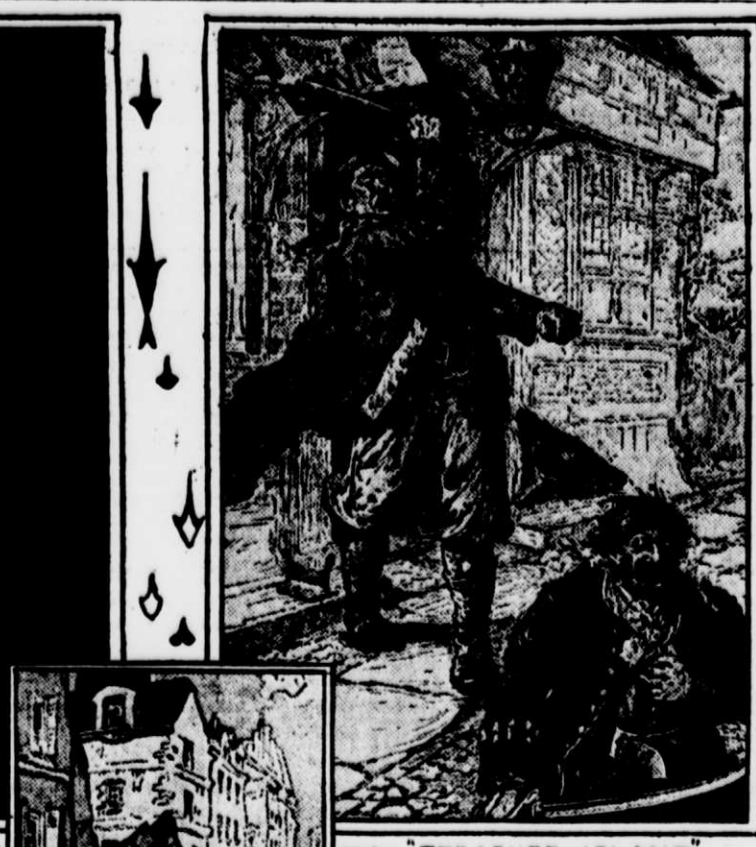
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COURTYARD" (STOKES)



FROM "TREASURE ISLAND"  
LOUIS RHEAD EDITION (HARPER)



FROM "THE LITTLE OLD GREY MAN"  
(DOBSON)

stock materials "are stirred up to-  
gether into a saccharine mess eagerly  
gulped down by a provincial reading  
public, which immediately protrudes  
its tongue for more."

As delightful and witty reading as  
J. J. Bell has yet favored us with will  
be found in the beginning of "We  
Macgregor Enlists" (Fleming H. Rev-  
ell Company), though we cannot  
sympathize wholly with either the in-  
dependent Christina or her inarticulate  
lover in the quarrel that parts them  
for a time. Mr. Bell uses the war feel-  
ing legitimately for the purposes of his  
art. Until the end of the war is only a  
background; we are made to under-  
stand the feelings of the boys who en-  
list and of their relatives; we see only  
the humorous side of their military  
training and can feel for them the first  
time they appear in public in kilts.  
The end is dramatic and happy, but it  
is not up to the level of the rest of the  
little book. The reader will forgive this,  
however, for all Mr. Bell's Scots are  
alive and lovable.

A dominating British matron is  
the butt of Mrs. Horace Tremlett's  
satire in "Looking for Grace" (John  
Lane Company), and incidentally the  
author makes fun of the many  
women who are trying to be helpful  
in the war. The last words of her  
husband, killed in battle, are re-  
ported to the lady and she proceeds  
to hunt for the unknown woman,  
whose name he utters. The humor  
consists in her being fooled at every  
turn and in the mystification of the  
reader. The real heroine is an un-  
conventional widow, who alone dis-  
covers the secret. A dissolute Belgian  
officer and an unscrupulous and sus-  
picious South African, who have noth-  
ing to do with the story, dash about  
after the manner of farce comedy. It  
is all very sprightly and some of the  
conversations are bright.

Much careful writing is expended  
on unsympathetic characters by Viola  
Newell in "Columbine" (D. P. Put-  
nam's Sons). A dabbler in literature  
who has not character enough to stick  
to anything long, happens to be pres-  
ent when a would-be actress fails. He  
tries to encourage her, sees her home  
and gradually makes love to her with  
the utmost propriety, though the sur-  
roundings are unconventional. She is  
pretty but uneducated and rather vul-  
gar; his family, including his father's  
stenographer, receive her rather  
coolly. After a while he is attracted to  
the girl, but this makes him doubt the  
durability of his new love. The effi-  
cient stenographer is unfortunately  
physically attractive to men, which  
makes her uncomfortable; when she  
explains this to her lover, who has  
hugged her whenever he had the  
chance till then, he does not like this  
and decides that he does not love her.  
He makes up his mind that he must  
take up with some one that needs his  
help and, though she proves to him  
that this is her case, prefers to re-  
vert to the first undesirable girl.  
Whether he marries her or not does  
not appear, but the stenographer's  
heart is broken. There is also a tem-  
peramental and eccentric sister, who  
is allowed to do as she pleases and  
whose happiness is left in doubt.  
These types are carefully dissected  
and demonstrated, for what purpose  
is not revealed; they may be realistic  
but have no life.

It shows lack of tact in the Baron-  
ess Grey at a time when France and  
England wish to be on the friendliest  
terms to contrast a gentlemanly En-  
glish tradesman with two dastardly  
French youths, one of the old nobility,

the other of that created by Napoleon.  
In "The Bronze Eagle" (George H.  
Boran Company), even the English-  
man is a friend of her "Scarlet After-  
noon." They are all rivals for the  
hand of one young woman. The melo-  
dramatic intrigue that is interwoven  
with the story of Napoleon's return  
and the battle of Waterloo is not par-  
ticularly interesting after the French-  
men have shown in what manner of men  
they are, but the story is readable.

The edifying tale of a remarkably  
silly middle-aged wife's infatuation for  
a military lady killer is told by the  
Baroness von Hutten in "Bird's Foun-  
tain" (Appleton). Her complainant  
husband is ready to let her go, but  
we have been regaled with the officer's  
various intrigues and with the cor-  
respondence of friends of the lady who  
are sorry for what she is doing, she is  
stopped for a time by a trifling acci-  
dent and sees herself in reality, but  
she is still bent on her object after  
finding out her lover's character, till  
in a sentimental moment she makes up  
with her husband again. The minor  
characters in this story are interest-  
ing and should have been made more  
of; of the principals and their pecu-  
liar morality we get an overdose.

Incidents of official life in India with  
an occasional story, often a pretty  
good one, are told by Shelland Brad-  
ley in "More Adventures of an A. D. C."  
(John Lane Company). The inci-  
dents are haphazard enough to be au-  
tobiographical, but the book is pleasant  
reading and must appeal to British  
readers who have Indian associations.  
The satire of Douglas Sladen seems  
directed more against his countrymen  
than against the Germans in "The Ger-  
man Wife" (Brentano's). The de-  
scription of life in Germany, even the  
military life, are fair and kindly. The  
heroine herself, notwithstanding her  
noble birth, is practical minded almost  
to the point of being calculating.  
There are various English women who  
behave abominably. The author de-  
scribes with much feeling experiences  
in getting out of Germany, and drifts  
into war incidents as the story goes  
on. It seems extremely unlikely that  
any German woman, with as brief an  
acquaintance with English life as the  
heroine had, should be turned against  
her country by living in it and listen-  
ing to the German attacks on England.  
The author would have done better to  
lay the whole responsibility for the  
change on conjugal love alone.

A small boy runs away into the ten-  
ement district and contracts a conta-  
gious disease in Helen S. Woodruff's  
"Mr. Doctor Man" (George H. Doran  
Company). The result is to rouse the  
well-to-do community to build a  
hospital and listen to the sanitary  
warnings of a wise physician. The  
sentimental domestic troubles of the  
physician have no place in the story;  
they only serve to aggravate the emo-  
tional exaggeration with which the  
physician's work is described.

## MUSICAL.

In "Some Musicians of Former  
Days" (Henry Holt and Company)  
Romain Rolland, now an approved  
musical critic, has collected a number  
of articles touching on the history of  
music in France. He traces the be-  
ginnings of opera and then tells of the  
first opera given in Paris. He ap-  
peals to the community to build a  
hospital and listen to the sanitary  
warnings of a wise physician. The  
sentimental domestic troubles of the  
physician have no place in the story;  
they only serve to aggravate the emo-  
tional exaggeration with which the  
physician's work is described.

ture that in the domain of music has  
been fully as important as the one on  
literature and has made more impres-  
sion on the popular mind. Arthur  
Pougin's "A Short History of Russian  
Music," which Lawrence Howard has  
translated (Brentano's) is written on  
biographical lines and supplies in-  
formation that many intelligent  
readers wish to have. It adds ac-  
counts of the man's life and of the  
work he did to the name on the pro-  
gramme. The notices are sufficiently  
full up to recent years and make the  
reader acquainted with the chief Rus-  
sian composers.

## OTHER BOOKS.

Another book of guidance and advice  
to intending young mothers has been  
written by Dr. Edith B. Lowry in  
"Your Baby" (Forbes and Company,  
Chicago). A third of the book is given  
up to getting ready, the rest to what  
shall be done with the infant when it  
arrives and to the various contin-  
gencies that may arise. The direc-  
tions seem clear and the advice is sen-  
sible.

It is Canada that Julia W. Henshaw  
has in mind in compiling "Wild  
Flowers of the North American Moun-  
tains" (Robert M. McBride and Com-  
pany, New York), and her North  
America seems to be exclusively the  
land across the border. The book is  
in substance a methodical, descrip-  
tive catalogue with many illustrations,  
some in color. The author begins with  
the ferns and the trees, then she takes  
up the flowers, arranged, as is the  
present fashion, according to color. It  
is an excellent handbook, that is ap-  
plicable just as fully to the flora of  
the United States.

An unusually practical and instructive  
handbook, which in many of its  
topics will interest laymen as much as  
engineers, is the "Railway Maintenance  
Engineering With Notes on Construc-  
tion," by William H. Sellow, (D. Van  
Nostrand Company). While it sup-  
plies all the technical information re-  
quired by the professional railroad  
man, the statements are so clear that  
the business man seeking information  
can obtain what he wants with little  
trouble.

A manual that has held its own for  
sixteen years, Samuel T. Maynard's  
"Landscape Gardening as Applied to  
Home Decoration" appears in a new,  
enlarged edition (John Wiley and Sons,  
New York). It will prove very help-  
ful to suburban dwellers and to those  
who can afford real country places, for  
the author tries above all to be prac-  
tical.

Pious cure perpetuates a New Eng-  
land worthy as that "The Old Eng-  
land Almanack" by Robert B. Thomas  
makes its appearance for the 124th  
time in the edition for 1916 (William  
Ware and Company, Boston). It comes  
to us in three forms, in the time  
honored yellow paper covers, bound in  
homey cardboard, and also bound for  
the library in accordance with modern  
decorous taste. In its matter, calendar  
information, agricultural and meteor-  
ological information and forecasts, and  
literary extracts, the "Old Farmer" re-  
mains unchanged, though the editor  
ventures occasionally into the modern  
world for his selections.

No more intimate story  
of Gotham, and the fasci-  
nation of its night life, has  
ever been written.  
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a small pocket volume, even with the  
aid of very thin paper, is a typog-  
raphical feat to be proud of and the  
cleanness and beauty of the pages of  
the Rev. F. M. Lausanne's "The New  
Moral in English" (Benziger Bros.,  
New York) call for especial commenda-  
tion. In its limp leather covers this  
book of devotions is extremely at-  
tractive and will be welcomed by all  
English speaking Catholics.

A collection of Bible texts with brief  
commentary by Nora Holm is called "The  
Runner's Bible" (Houghton Mifflin  
Company). It is designed especially  
for the use of people who are in a  
hurry.

The customary information and  
statistics regarding its multifarious ac-  
tivities by the largest Protestant body  
in the country will be found in "The  
Methodist Year Book, 1916," which  
Oliver S. Barkett edits this year (The  
Methodist Book Concern, New York).  
A few pages of excellent advice to  
young men who are going into busi-  
ness have been written by Carlton F.  
Stevens in a little pamphlet entitled  
"On Being a Stenographer," published  
by the author at Carson City, Nev.

Ponderous though the humor is of  
"The Log of the Ark by Noah" (E. P.  
Dutton and Company), of which I. L.  
Gordon and A. J. Frueh are the  
authors, it is lightened somewhat by  
the pictures and is certain to be en-  
joyed by a portion at least of the crowd  
that craves for funniness. Here this  
time the ultra modern ideas and vo-  
cabulary of the patriarch and the con-  
ditions of the voyage.

## THE WOMAN QUESTION.

It is logical at all events that Kath-  
arine Anthony in her account of "Fem-  
inism in Germany and Scandinavia"  
(Henry Holt and Company) should  
quote chiefly from women writers.  
The issue in those countries is con-  
sidered, and the changes in the sex  
relations and other matters, but this  
survey will be helpful to students of  
the question.

An ostensibly fair statement of  
woman's position in the past and of  
the sphere of her activity at present in  
France is given by the Rev. Dr. A. M.  
McClintock in "The Woman Question"  
(Rowland Press, Philadelphia).  
winds up with his objections to  
woman's voting. Confidence in his  
opinion either way might be stronger  
if he did not lay stress on what he  
calls "neuromuscular" factors.

Essays on woman in general, par-  
ticularly in the relations that men are  
accustomed to criticize and make fun  
of, are contained in Ida M. Tarrill's  
"The Ways of Women" (Macmillan).  
The essays, generally, but fortifies  
her points usually with instances of  
the achievements of individual women,  
which are forcible if a bit boastful.

A somewhat humorous essay found  
among the late Myrtle Reed's papers  
deals with the differences between the  
two sexes and is called "A Woman's  
Career" (G. P. Putnam's Sons).

## WAR BOOKS.

The war articles of Edith Wharton  
on "Fighting France" (Charles Scrib-  
ner's Sons) have done their best ser-  
vice as they appeared from time to  
time in periodicals. Those describing  
conditions in Paris when the war broke  
out are valuable as the first hand tes-  
timony of a literary artist who was  
familiar with the city and certain  
classes of the people. Her visits to  
the several divisions of the front were  
made last summer; they record her  
personal experiences, her regrets for  
much destruction, and raise in the  
reader's mind the question: "What  
business had Mrs. Wharton to be  
there?" Except for the literary form  
the reader's interest is not much en-  
riched by the details of the war, but  
experience and keener powers for ob-  
servation of what was essential than  
she has. In her conclusion on the  
tone of France she relapses into the  
psychological precision which she  
has affected at times in her fiction; a  
woman who likes the French and has  
lived among them in these times can  
find the explanation of the attitude  
of the nation in its "intelligence" and  
power of "expression."

The story told by Mary Roberts  
Rinehart in "Kings, Queens and  
Pawns" (George H. Doran Company)  
is an account of the life of a woman  
of her efforts to secure information  
and of what she saw while doing it.  
It is interspersed with significant  
anecdotes and with short outbursts  
of emotion. The author obtained in-  
terviews with various royal person-  
ages and other persons of note and  
paid particular attention to the work  
of the Red Cross and the field hospi-  
tals along the front in Belgium, es-  
pecially in the lines defended by the  
British. It is clear and intelligent  
evidence.

An account of the retreat of the  
British army from Mons to Ypres in  
the fall of 1914 has been written by  
W. Douglas Newton in "The Undying  
Story" (E. P. Dutton and Company).  
That campaign has receded enough  
into the past to allow official correc-  
tions and additions to be made to the  
contemporary accounts and for the  
author to see the events he recorded  
in something like their proper per-



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month or next year and hear a crowd of people crying  
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ing their copies of POLICE!!!, the new book by

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D. Appleton & Company, Publishers, New York



pective. He writes an interesting  
history.

Very different from the common  
run of war stories is the Rev. Ber-  
nard G. O'Rourke's "In the Hands of  
the Enemy" (Longmans, Green and  
Company). The author was an army  
chaplain and was captured within ten  
days of leaving England at the begin-  
ning of the war. He relates the ex-  
periences of himself and his fellow  
prisoners during the months of his  
captivity in a matter of fact way, with  
singular absence of animosity toward  
his captors. There are plenty of  
things for which he blames the Ger-  
mans, but as in the case of most of  
the men who have done actual fight-  
ing, no sign of resentment toward in-  
dividuals.

Before the war there were many  
writers who predicted a war and  
many who took a contrary view.  
Among the lucky guessers was  
Francis Delais, whose pamphlet in  
French, with an English translation  
on the opposite page, is published un-  
der the title "The Inevitable War"  
(Small, Maynard and Company, Bos-  
ton). It seems a rather futile form  
of literature to print at the present  
time.

The latest additions to the valuable  
"Pages d'Histoire" series (Berger-  
Levrault, Paris) are two thick vol-  
umes of "Paroles Francaises," contain-  
ing comments on the war by many dis-  
tinguished French writers and public  
men, and "L'Annuaire de la Décla-  
ration," containing accounts of the  
way the war was noticed in the sev-  
eral countries. Eugene Buis in "La  
Belgique de Demain" (Perrin et Com-  
pagnie, Paris) suggests, as countless  
others before him have done, the erec-  
tion of a middle kingdom along the  
Rhine by adding Luxembourg and Al-  
sace-Lorraine to the old Netherlands.

## AMERICAN TRAVEL.

It is a somewhat miscellaneous  
volume that Clifton Johnson has put  
together in "Highways and Byways  
of New England" (Macmillan), but it  
is very entertaining, is illustrated with  
his superb photographs and gives fair

and alluring samples of what the  
traveller may find in each of the New  
England States. He follows the usual  
order in beginning with Maine and  
ending with Connecticut, when the  
convenience of automobile tourists, for  
whose benefit useful directions are ap-  
pended to each chapter, would per-  
haps be better served by reversing the  
arrangement. The author introduces  
stories and anecdotes into his narra-  
tive, he hunts out memories of Aris-  
tides Ward in Watford, he hangs  
around Gloucester wharves and rooms  
over motels in Nantucket and he has  
taken many admirable portraits of  
genuine New Englanders. It is a de-  
lightful book in which nature lovers  
may regret the suggestion of the auto-  
mobile.

A voyage that is easily and not un-  
commonly taken from the port of New  
York is described by A. Hyatt Verrill in  
"Isles of Spice and Palm" (Appleton).  
The steamers sail for Trinidad and the  
Guianas ports, touching at several of  
the Lesser Antilles on the way. The  
author tells about each one of these.  
Danish St. Thomas, French Guade-  
loupe and Martinique, British Santa  
Lucia and Barbadoes, with all the  
smaller islands of any importance. He  
also visits Trinidad and the ports of  
British and of Dutch Guiana, but not  
the range of important islands along  
the Venezuelan coast, though he in-  
cludes them in the brief notices at the  
end of the book. This is intended  
chiefly as a guide to travellers. It  
calls to notice an extremely attractive  
region for a winter vacation, one that  
pleases the American should  
visit far more than they do.

To many who have gone to the San  
Francisco exhibition by sea "The Con-  
struction of the Panama Canal," by  
William L. Sibert and John F. Stevens  
(Appleton) will be interesting,  
though it is in substance simply a  
straightforward account of the work  
done after the United States under-  
took the great enterprise. Mr. Stevens  
writes about the preparatory period  
and date, each dealing with the  
portion in which he himself was active.  
It is a businesslike and satisfactory  
statement of the facts.

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fault with the book, it is  
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Stratton-Porter, Author of  
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